Assistance to States for Food Testing Laboratories

2963. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial assistance is released to the States for strengthening Food Testing Laboratories;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the financial assistance released to Gujarat during the last three years and Laboratories those came up in the State, district-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Financial assistance is being given to the State/UT Governments for strengthening of their food testing laboratories, since 1990-91. A total of Rs. 804 Lakhs, has so far been released to various Statc/UT Governments for the purpose. The financial assistance is given to State/UT Governments who have food testing laboratories for purchase of equipment as per availability of funds.

(c) The funds released to Government of Gujarat during last three years are as follows:—

Year	Funds released
1998-1999	NIL
1999-2000	Rs. 9.00 lakhs
2000-2001	Rs. 9.00 lakhs. In Addition a High Performance Liquid Chromatograph will also be supplied to Distt. Food Laboratory, Bhuj.